

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 045665

62

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 INR-07 INRE-00 L-03 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE-TEDEAL:DPB

APPROVED BY EUR-JAARMITAGE

EUR/WE:EROWELL

----- 007462

O 252307Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045665

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SOPN

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AP REPORT CONCERNING RADIO
LIBERTY TRANSMITTER FACILITIES IN SPAIN SENT OUT OVER
WIRES ON FEB. 25:

QUOTE:

--- RADIO LIBERTY, A U.S.-FUNDED STATION BROADCASTING
TO THE SOVIET UNION, MAY BE IN DANGER OF LOSING ITS MAJOR
TRANSMITTER FACILITIES IN SPAIN.

--- DAVID M. ABSHIRE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD FOR INTER-
NATIONAL BROADCASTING THAT OVERSEES THE STATION, SAID TODAY
THAT U.S. OFFICIALS SO FAR HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS
TO START TALKS WITH SPAIN ON RENEWING RADIO LIBERTY'S LEASE
TO OPERATE THE TRANSMITTER.

--- THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR LEASE IS SET TO EXPIRE ON
MARCH 23.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 045665

--- IN TESTIMONY PREPARED FOR A HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON RADIO LIBERTY'S 1977
BUDGET REQUEST, ABSHIRE SAID THE 1.35-MILLION WATT

TRANSMITTER COMPLEX IN SPAIN PROVIDES FOUR-FIFTHS
OF THE NETWORK'S POWER FOR BROADCASTS TO THE SOVIET
UNION.

--- HE SAID THE SPANISH SITE, ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST
NEAR BARCELONA, IS "IDEAL" FOR SHORTWAVE BROADCASTING.

--- ABSHIRE SAID THAT HE AND SIG MICKELSON, A FORMER
CBS NEWS PRESIDENT WHO NOW HEADS BOTH RADIO LIBERTY
AND RADIO FREE EUROPE, "HAVE BEEN ENDEAVORING SINCE EARLY
LAST FALL TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW, LONG-TERM
RENEWAL."

--- HOWEVER, I REGRET TO SAY THAT, AS OF THIS MOMENT,
WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO INITIATE THE RENEWAL
NEGOTIATIONS," HE SAID.

--- ABSHIRE NOTED THAT "SEVERAL OF THE REASONS FOR THE
DELAY ARE UNDERSTANDABLE."

--- HE CITED REORGANIZATION OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT
FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF GEN. FRANCISCO FRANCO AND THE NEW
REGIME'S EFFORTS TO REACH A NEW MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT
WITH THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS TO DEVELOP BETTER
FOREIGN RELATIONS GENERALLY.

--- A SPOKESWOMAN FOR RADIO LIBERTY SAID TUESDAY THAT
MADRID'S APPARENT RELUCTANCE TO RENEW THE TRANSMITTER
LEASE ALSO MAY BE DUE TO PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIET UNION,
WHICH RECENTLY CONCLUDED A NEW TRADE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN.
UNQUOTE

2. FYI. AP REPORT PARAPHRASES ABSHIRE'S PREPARED
STATEMENT BEFORE HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH WAS NOT REPEAT
NOT CLEARED WITH DEPARTMENT. COMMENT BY RADIO LIBERTY
SPOKESMAN REFERRED TO IN FINAL PARAGRAPH WAS APPARENTLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 045665

MADE IN RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUESTION. IT OBVIOUSLY
DOES NOT REPRESENT USG VIEWS ON QUESTION. END FYI.

3. YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS
TO DRAW TO GOS ATTENTION THE PRAVDA DIATRIBE AGAINST
THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT (MOSCOW 2827 OF FEBRUARY 24) AS
AN EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF TREATMENT THEY CAN EXPECT IN
THE FUTURE FROM THE SOVIETS REGARDLESS OF THE RL OUTCOME.

KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO BROADCASTING, LEASES, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE045665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TEDEAL:DPB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760071-0530
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760213/aaaaakqq.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RADIO LIBERTY
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, SP, US, RADIO LIBERTY
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006